

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked-up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parenthesis, underlined text indicating insertions, and strike through and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A non-human animal feed composition comprising free indole acetic acid (IAA) or a derivative thereof, wherein an amount of free IAA or a derivative thereof is more than 240 micrograms and up to 40 grams per kilogram ~~of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram, wherein and~~ said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA, and 7-methoxy-IAA and a compound that can be converted into free IAA in one or more steps.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The non-human animal feed composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of free IAA or a derivative thereof comprising is between 100 and 1000 mg per kilogram ~~of free IAA or a derivative thereof per kilogram.~~

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The non-human animal feed composition according to claim 4, wherein comprising an aromatic ring of the free IAA ~~wherein the~~

~~aromatic ring~~ is substituted on one or more of the 4, 5, 6 and 7 position with methyl, amino, nitro, fluoride, chloride, bromide or iodide.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The non-human animal feed composition according to claim 1, wherein the animal feed composition is in the form of at least one of pellets, meal, grains, extruded or expanded grains, tablets, powder and bolus forms.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for at least one of increasing the growth rate and improving at least one of the feed efficiency, the feed conversion rate and the immunity of a non-human animal, the method comprising administering an amount of a non-human animal feed including free indole acetic acid (IAA) or a derivative thereof equivalent to a daily intake of between 25 and 1,000 micrograms per kilogram life weight per day to said non-human animal ~~an effective amount of a composition according to claim 1.~~

8. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
using free IAA or a derivative thereof for the preparation of a therapeutical composition for stimulating an immune system in non-human animals in need of such a treatment, wherein said derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA, and 7-methoxy-IAA ~~and a compound that can be converted into free IAA for the preparation of a therapeutical composition for stimulating the immune system in non-human animals in need of such a treatment.~~

9-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 108, wherein the non-human animal has a lowered serum level of insulin-like growth factor 1IGF-1.

12. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8, wherein the ~~animals~~ non-human animal ~~has~~ have at least one of a growth deficit and a weakened immune system.

13. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising:

admixing a non-human animal feed composition according to claim 1 with at least one feed substance or ingredient ~~in order to obtain an animal feed composition according to claim 1.~~

14. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) Method for the preparation of an animal feed composition, said method comprising:

supplementing ~~ana~~ a non-human animal feed with free IAA or a derivative thereof ~~in order to obtain an~~ the animal feed composition according to claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) Method for raising non-human animals comprising:

mixing an effective dose of the free IAA or a the derivative thereof in the non-human animal feed composition according to claim 1 with a feed material suitable for a particular non-human animal species ~~in order to obtain a feed composition according to claim 1, suitable for a particular animal species; and~~

feeding said non-human animal species with the feed material.

16-18. (Cancelled).

19. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the derivative is selected from the group consisting of 4-hydroxy-IAA, 4-methoxy-IAA, 5-hydroxy-IAA, 5-methoxy-IAA, 6-hydroxy-IAA, 6-methoxy-IAA, 7-hydroxy-IAA, and 7-methoxy-IAA.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the derivative is conjugated IAA and the non-human animal feed includes an enzyme selected from the group consisting of esterases, amidases, nitrilases and glucosidases.

*** END CLAIM LISTING ***